

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION**

**JEREMIAH PHILLIPS, #1512530,
Petitioner,**

v.

**WILLIAMS STEPHENS, Director
TDCJ-CID,
Respondent.**

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3:14-CV-2664-L-BK

**FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION
OF THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

Petitioner, a Texas state prisoner, filed a *pro se* petition for a writ of habeas corpus under [28 U.S.C. § 2254](#), which was automatically referred to the magistrate judge. *See 28 U.S.C. 636(b)* and Special Order 3. For the reasons that follow, it is recommended that this successive habeas petition be transferred to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

I. BACKGROUND

In 2008, Petitioner was convicted of aggravated sexual assault and sentenced to a sixty-year term of imprisonment. *State v. Phillips*, No. F07-48164 (292nd Judicial District Court, Dallas County, Apr. 25, 2008), *aff'd*, [*Phillips v. State*, No. 05-08-00801-CR, 2009 WL 866275 \(Tex. App. – Dallas Feb. Apr. 2, 2009, pet. ref.\)](#). Petitioner unsuccessfully challenged his conviction in state and federal habeas proceedings. *See Phillips v. Thaler*, No. 3:11-CV-3107-P, 2012 WL 3100756 (N.D. Tex. Jul. 11, 2012), accepting recommendation, [2012 WL 3104653 \(N.D. Tex. Jul. 31, 2012\)](#) (dismissing petition as time-barred), *certificate of appealability denied*, No. 12-10863 (5th Cir. 2013); [*Phillips v. Stephens*, No. 3:13-cv-02576-B-BF, 2013 WL 5490284 \(N.D. Tex. 2013\)](#) (transferring successive habeas petition, construed from Rule 60(b) motion, to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals), *denying certificate of appealability*, No. 13-11135 (5th Cir.

Apr. 10, 2014); *In re Phillips*, No. 13-11071 (5th Cir. Nov. 19, 2013) (denying leave to file successive habeas petition).

In this action, Petitioner again seeks to challenge his aggravated sexual assault conviction, asserting actual innocence, insufficiency of the evidence, confrontation clause and *Brady* violation, and ineffective assistance of counsel. [[Doc. 3 at 7-9](#), 14].

II. ANALYSIS

The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 limits the circumstances under which a petitioner may file a second or successive application for federal habeas relief.

See 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b). In general, to raise a new claim, the petitioner must show that the successive application is based on: (1) a new rule of constitutional law made retroactive to cases on collateral review by the Supreme Court; or (2) newly discovered evidence that, if proven and viewed in light of the evidence as a whole, would be sufficient to establish by clear and convincing evidence that no reasonable fact finder would have found him guilty of the offense.

See 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(2). Before a petitioner may file his application in the district court, however, a three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit must determine whether the application makes the requisite *prima facie* showing. *See 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A) and (B)*. Section 2244(b)(3)(A) constitutes a bar to the district court's jurisdiction to consider a successive habeas petition unless the United States Court of Appeals has first granted the petitioner permission to file such a petition. [*United States v. Key, 205 F.3d 773, 774 \(5th Cir. 2000\) \(per curiam\)*](#) (section 2255 motion); *see also Crone v. Cockrell, 324 F.3d 833, 836 (5th Cir. 2003) (section 2254* habeas petition).

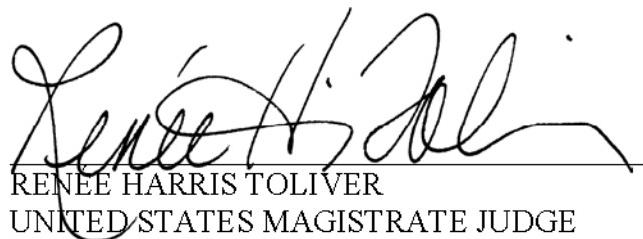
The United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit has not issued an order authorizing this Court to consider the successive petition in this case. Because Petitioner must

obtain such an order before he can file a successive application challenging his conviction, his section 2254 petition should be transferred to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. *See Henderson v. Haro, 282 F.3d 862, 864 (5th Cir. 2002); In re Epps, 127 F.3d 364, 365 (5th Cir. 1997).*¹

III. RECOMMENDATION

For the foregoing reasons, it is recommended that the successive habeas petition be **TRANSFERRED** to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. *See 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3).*

SIGNED August 26, 2014.

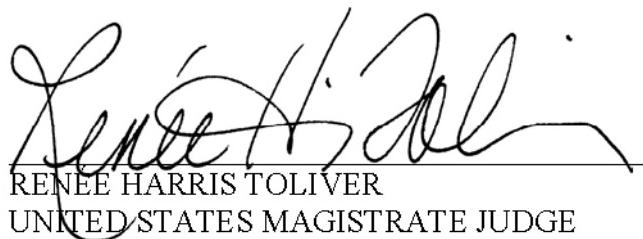


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¹ Insofar as Petitioner asserts actual innocence [[Doc. 3 at 7](#), 10; [Doc. 4 at 11-12](#)], *McQuiggin v. Perkins, ___ U.S. ___, 133 S.Ct. 1924 (2013)*, does not authorize the Court to ignore or bypass the constraints on successive applications. *See In re Warren, 537 Fed. Appx. 457, 457-458 (5th Cir.2013)* (*McQuiggin* applies only to a first federal habeas corpus petition).

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE AND
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL/OBJECT**

A copy of this report and recommendation will be served on all parties in the manner provided by law. Any party who objects to any part of this report and recommendation must file specific written objections within 14 days after being served with a copy. See [28 U.S.C. § 636\(b\)\(1\)](#); [FED. R. CIV. P. 72\(b\)](#). In order to be specific, an objection must identify the specific finding or recommendation to which objection is made, state the basis for the objection, and specify the place in the magistrate judge's report and recommendation where the disputed determination is found. An objection that merely incorporates by reference or refers to the briefing before the magistrate judge is not specific. Failure to file specific written objections will bar the aggrieved party from appealing the factual findings and legal conclusions of the magistrate judge that are accepted or adopted by the district court, except upon grounds of plain error. See [*Douglass v. United Services Automobile Ass'n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1417 \(5th Cir. 1996\)](#).



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